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EXPLORATION OF THE RIO ANANAS, BRAZIL

A real discovery as a result of exploration in new territory always clears up a host of related problems. We have already commented (*Bull. Amer. Geogr. Soc.*, Vol. 47, 1915, pp. 216-217) on the good judgment of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt in selecting the unexplored region between the Madeira and the Tapajoz for his Brazilian expedition—a choice which made possible the largest results in the time available. "Through the Brazilian Wilderness" makes clear how the mysteries of the hydrography of the region were solved by the discovery of the Rio Theodoro. It is to be expected that one after another of the tributaries will be "tied up" with the main river through independent surveys until the whole region has been explored. Fortunately for the later expeditions, the main stream, which is the key to the region, is already laid down upon the map. Further explorations are now reported that outline the drainage of the Ananás, or Pineapple River, and its relation to the Theodoro. The information is conveyed in a letter from Colonel Roosevelt reprinted herewith by his kind permission:

OYSTER BAY, LONG ISLAND, N. Y.
DECEMBER 21, 1915

MY DEAR PROFESSOR BOWMAN:

You may be interested in the information I have just received from South America. About a year ago, under the direction of Colonel Rondon, Lieutenant de Souza, with ten *camaradas*, was sent down the Ananás, or Pineapple River, which you will see indicated in my book on the map opposite page 338. The expedition had a very hard time. They soon ran out of food. They had very bad times in the rapids and all of them fell sick. Finally they were attacked by Indians. Lieutenant de Souza fired one shot in the air; then the gun miss-fired. Four arrows struck him. He plunged into the river but was too badly wounded to swim and sank. At the time they were on an island making a canoe to replace one lost in the rapids. The other canoe had been taken over to the bank by two *camaradas* who had gone hunting. Two of the *camaradas* on the island escaped and, traveling through the forests, struck the Dúvida. A third also escaped by himself. He had been out hunting and discovered the Indians before they discovered him. He watched them for seven hours and after they had left he went to the camp, got de Souza's diary and a few other things and then descended the bank of the river into the Dúvida, descending for twenty-four days before he found the first rubber man. He then continued twenty-two days farther on foot before he finally managed to secure a canoe. The Ananás proved to be the Rio Cardoso, which I have marked on the same map. This must mean that the Upper Aripuanan, or Aripuanan proper, is a much shorter river than that branch which we ascended and takes its rise somewhere between this river which we descended and the Canumá.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Freshfield of the Royal Geographical Society.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

This letter shows that the Ananás is one of the numerous headwater branches of the Rio Theodoro and not the major tributary which it had been thought it might be. As it coincides with the Cardoso, which empties into the Theodoro in 10° 58' S., the distance in a straight line from its source, in about 12½° S., to its mouth is about 125 miles. If it had turned out to be the Upper Aripuanan, which empties into the Theodoro in 7° 34' S., this distance would have been about 400 miles. The Upper Aripuanan is undoubtedly the largest right affluent of the Theodoro. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the ample development of drainage arteries (due to the larger precipitation) on the edge of the Matto Grosso highland makes it just possible that some of these streams form part of the headwaters of the Aripuanan. But the probability is stronger than ever that the river descended by Colonel Roosevelt is the longest continuous waterway within the drainage system of the Rio Theodoro.